

# Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Site Screen Report

*This form is for use at the site of abandoned uranium mines (AUM) located on Navajo Nation lands. Applicable sites include all mine and mine features that have or have not undergone reclamation by the Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, including features, adits and pits. Applicable sites also include all AUM sites listed in the USEPA CERCLIS database, all sites listed in the 2008 AUM GIS Report issued by USACOE and USEPA, all AUM sites on allotment lands associated with the Navajo Nation, and any and all AUM sites lands not listed in any database located on Navajo lands. Reconnaissance of any sites located on lands adjacent to Navajo lands but that are or may be impacting Navajo lands will need to be coordinated with the authorities appropriate to those lands.*

*The purpose of the form is to ascertain the status and location of the identified AUM site, to record all immediate site information associated with the mine site and to document the recommendation and/or decision on what additional steps, if any, are needed at the site.*

## Section 36

### Navajo AUM Eastern Region

**Prepared by:**

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**

**Contract: W91238-06-F-0083**

**12767.063.496.1111**

**May 2009**

**Part I              Site Identification, Location and Status****Site Names and ID numbers as applicable****Mine ID:**    372**Map ID:**      E101**CERCLIS:** NOT ASSIGNED**NAMLRP:** NOT ASSIGNED**New Mexico Mining and Mineral Division ID:**    NM 0172**New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources:** NMMK0356**Local name / Aliases:** Rimrock, Homer Scriven, Red Bluff No.1, Rimrock School Section**New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake**Lat/Long:** 35.3172809584 N / -107.839548135 W**Nearby road and highway:** Haystack Road / NM-334 **Local Post Office:** Prewitt, NM**Land Status: check one or more and provide ownership and contact information below**

<b>Tribal Trust Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Tribal Fee Land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Allotment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fee land</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public lands</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Private</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bureau of Land Mgmt</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>State</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Ownership and contact information:**

The mine site property is classified as State of New Mexico and private land. New Mexico MMD identifies the surface and mineral rights owner as the State Land Office. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site.

**Part II        Site Observations**

**Observed Structures: list number of and describe human habitation status of structures at the following distances from mine:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None                    **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Observed Public or commercial structure: list and describe all schools, clinics, Chapter Houses, places of business and any other structure used by members of the community at the following distances:**

**0 to 200 feet:** None                    **200 feet to 0.25 mile:** None

**Levels measured around the perimeter(s) of the identified structure(s):**

None

**Observed water sources: list the number and type of wells and surface water sources that are potentially used for human consumption at the following distances from the mine:**

**0 to 0.25 miles:** None                    **0.25 miles to 4 miles:** None

**Sensitive environments: note and describe all sensitive environments located within visible range of the mine site, including: wetlands, endangered species habitats and approximate locations of sites that may be under protection of the government of the Navajo Nation.**

None observed

**Known Site History: include information from interviews with Chapter officials and residents.**

**Note information on mine ownership, period of operation, and type of mining operation.**

Section 36 mine consists of a surface area of 30,385.84 square meters. Any historical information pertaining to mining operations and historical ownership of the mine site appeared to be unclear. The New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division identified the operator from 1952-1953 as Moses Mirabel; 1954-1955 as Skult-Munson; 1955 as T. Munson; 1958 as Chena Mining Co.; 1960 as L. Sutton; and 1962-1964 as Homer Seriven.

**Part III        Type, number and reclamation status of mine features**

**Provide description and reclamation status of all mine sites and features at site. Include all waste piles, adits, pits and other features, and indicate whether they are open, closed, covered, capped, buried or unreclaimed. Indicate approximate size, shape and extent, including description of any reclamation caps. Note condition of all reclamation caps.**

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown. Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site.

**Part IV        Summary of radiological readings**

**Note:** Due to locked gates and private property, Weston was unable to access the mine site.

**Background Locations** - None

**Mine site:** Section 36

- See Figure 1

**Nearby Structure Perimeter** – None

**Describe any other radiological measurements:**

Radiological measurements collected for the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division during a 2008 field screening survey found gamma radiation levels in the pit as 1,100 counts per second (cps), levels at the ground surface with a maximum of 36 micro Roentgen per hour  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hr}$  and a minimum of 10  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hr}$ , and levels at a height of 4-feet with a maximum of 34  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hr}$  and a minimum of 10  $\mu\text{R}/\text{hr}$ .

**Part V        Site sketch of all mine features and readings, including locations of all structures, sources of potential drinking water and any other important features and radiological readings.**

Presented in Figure 1

## **Part VI        Response Action Summary**

**Site Name(s):** Section 36

**New Mexico MMD District:** Ambrosia Lake

### **Decision Criteria**

**Is there an unreclaimed waste pile at the site?** None observed

**At what distance from the waste pile is the nearest residential structure located?** N/A

**At what distances from the waste pile are there potential drinking water sources?** N/A

**Is there a reclamation cap or sealed adit in place at the site?** None observed

**Is the cap/seal functionally intact?** N/A

**Is the cap/seal sufficiently degraded to create a concern about releases?** N/A

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest domestic structure located?** N/A

**At what distance from the cap/seal is the nearest potential drinking water source?** N/A

### **Summary of emergency response factors**

None

### **Summary hazard ranking system factors**

None

### **Summary of reclamation factors**

Reclamation status of the mine site is currently unknown

## Part VII Photos



Photo 1. Locked gate on road leading towards Section 36 mine site

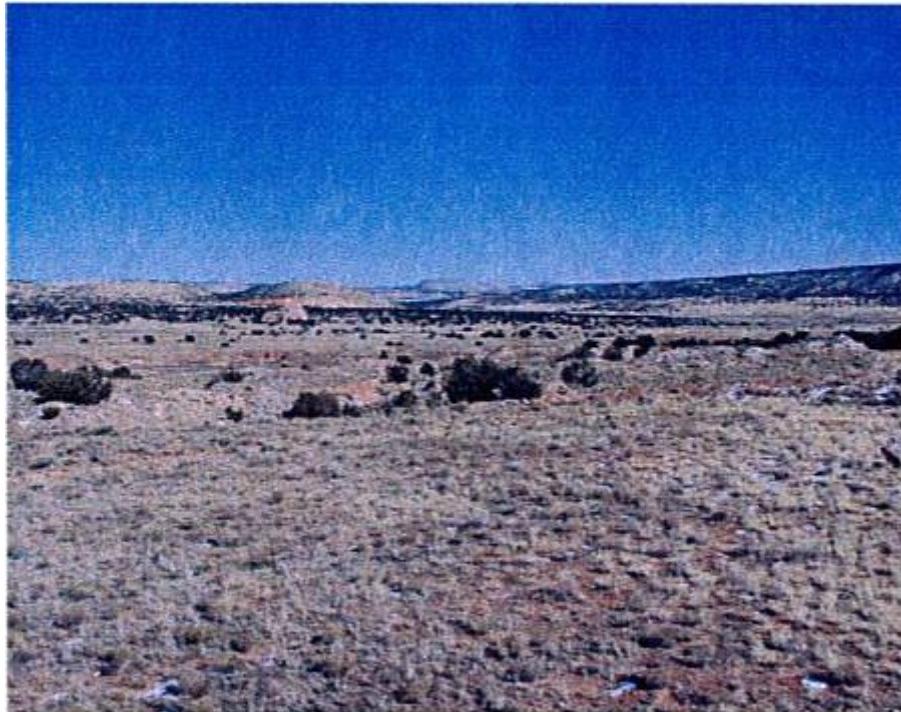


Photo 2. Locked gate leading towards Section 36 mine site



Photo 3. Fenced area leading towards Section 36 mine site

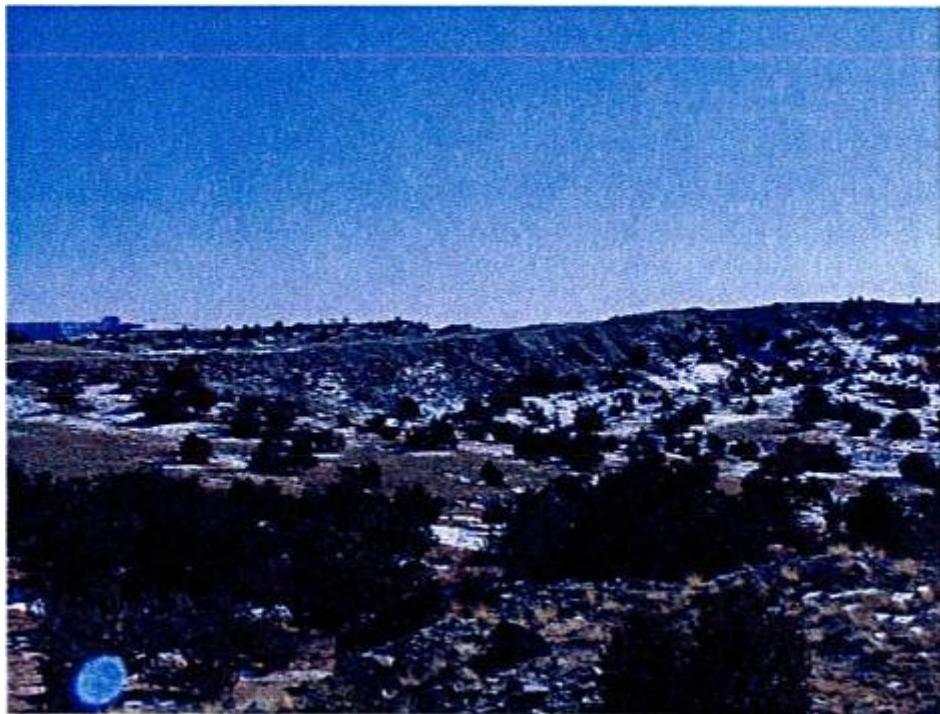
**The following photos were collected during a 2008 field survey for the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division:**



View north, piles and cut



View north, piles, cut, access road



View east at primary disturbance



Overall view

**Part VIII Contacts Reports and Information**Name Susan A. Lucas Kamat

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Title or official role (if any) AUM Data Manager – New Mexico Mining & Mineral DivisionTelephone number (505) 476-3408 fx: (505) 476-3408Information provided Background information and findings from 2008 New Mexico MMD Survey of mining sites.

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Name Dana Bahar

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Title or official role (if any) Manager, Superfund Oversight SectionGround Water Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment DepartmentTelephone number (505) 827-2908Information provided General Background Information

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